



## **Trail Tree Newsletter**

**Sept 2018**

This is Volume 42 of the Quarterly Trail Tree Project Newsletter. We hope the topics in this newsletter will be of interest to you. If you want us to report on other things, just let us know and we will be happy to do that. Below is all the latest news.

### **Trail Tree (TT) Database**

#### *Trail Tree Database*

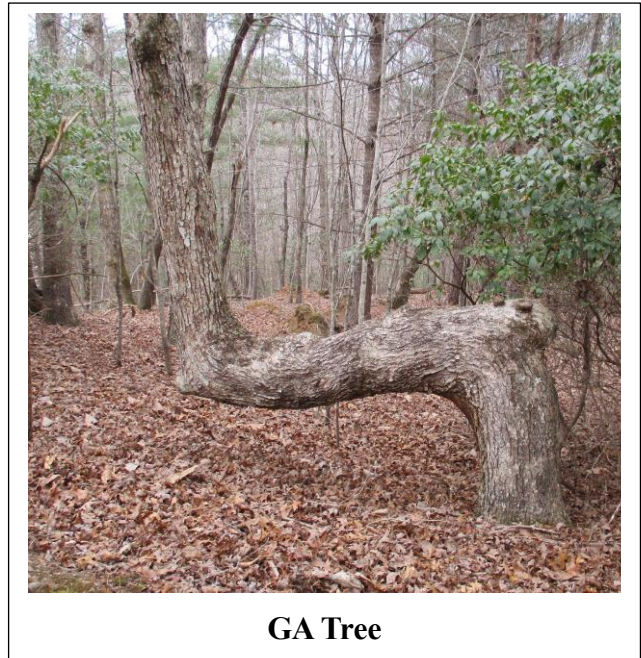
There are now 2,497 Marker Trees in the database covering 44 states. I have about ten trees waiting to go into the database so we will be over 2,500 in a few days. The remaining states in the lower 48 that do not have a Marker Tree found as yet are North & South Dakota, Idaho and Nevada. We need folks from those states looking for a Marker tree so we can get our coverage to 48 states.

#### *Trees of Interest*

I've selected some of trees from all over the United States submitted in the early part of 2018 to show the extent of Marker Trees nationwide. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are learning more about interpreting the trees and learning to look for common configurations which help us to understand their purpose. We have started working with our colleagues across the nation to create a common nomenclature for the identifying the trees.

#### **GA Tree**

Judy and Ken are our research team in Northeast Georgia. They have found a large number of trees from that area. One of their latest is shown to the right.



## VA Tree

One of the most unusual Marker Tree found to date was located in Central VA by Rick and confirmed by our VA research team led by Jo. This Marker Tree has a horizontal arm extended out 19 feet. It is so long, it had to be grafted to another tree in order to support its weight. There is a second Marker Tree near this one.

## NC Tree

Donna has been traveling the back areas of VA and NC riding horses to locate the Marker Trees and has reported a number of them to us. Her latest Marker Tree was found in NC.

## TN Tree

Laurie sent in her tree from near Dover, TN. It is one of the standard characteristic Marker trees bent low to the ground. Dustin sent in his tree from near Thompson's Station, TN. His tree has the typical bent shape but is bent higher up off of the ground.



VA Tree



NC Tree



TN Tree



TN Tree

## MO Tree

Shelia has located several Marker Trees in the St. Louis, MO area. One of the trees she sent in is shown to the right.

## NY Tree

Tammy found her tree near the Oswego River in upstate NY. The tree is probably pointing to a safe crossing point on the river.



**MO Tree**



**NY Tree**

## NJ Tree

It is not often we get a tree in from NJ. With all the urban renewal in that state, few trees have survived. Greg found his Marker tree near Vernon, NJ. The tree is located very near the Appalachian Trail and may have been associated with that Indian Trail.



**NJ Tree**

## CT Tree

Jeff has been searching the State of CT looking for Marker Trees and has found one more. Although now dead, his latest find is a large one at 32.2 inches in diameter. CT is another state where urban renewal has destroyed the evidence of the Indian occupation but there are still trees to be found.

## AR Tree

Lisa sent in her tree from AR. AR is one of the states where we have found a large number of Marker Trees. This tree had been previously reported but Lisa was able to expand our information about this tree. The tree is 38.2 inches in diameter.



AR Tree



CT Tree

## A Marker Tree Preservation Win

Cheryl from south AL notified us about the power company planning on cutting down a Marker Tree that they claimed may cause problems sometime in the future for the power lines. Cheryl asked for our help to preserve the tree. Based on what I could see of the tree and the power lines in pictures Cheryl sent, I did not believe the tree was causing any problems now or in the future. I suggested she get the media involved which she did and they published an article about the need to preserve the tree. The power company was swayed by the arguments to save this sacred tree and decided to place another pole in the right-a-way to move the power lines over and away from the tree. We do not always win these battles but it is worth fighting to preserve the Indian culture. Sometimes the outcome is a win on our side.

## Indian Heritage Sites Research Program

In late July, I headed back to CO to do more research at sacred sites located west of Denver. Bob Wells joined me in Denver to do the film documentation of these sites. Our fellow researcher, a Ute descendant, who had done some of the initial scouting of the sites joined us for the first two days of our research.

John Anderson guided us on our last day of research. We visited and documented eleven sacred sites in a four-day period. After completing our research of the sacred sites, we traveled to Bailey, CO and attended the first Annual Conference of the Association of Native Sacred Trees and Places (NASTaP). I made two presentations and Bob filmed a number of interviews of some of the participants.

John contacted us about a possible Marker Tree near Chester, SC that he thought might have a special purpose. Diane and I traveled to Chester and met with John and a local reporter, Brian. There 37.5-inch diameter Marker Tree was indeed special. It was marking a Ceremonial Burial site for the Catawba Indians. We located the main burial site, the Catawba tribe village site and a Council meeting location. At the Council site, there are still a few stone benches existing in what appears to have been in a circle very near a major Indian Trail that crossed through that area.

We are currently working on a major sacred Cherokee site located near Leesburg, AL and will do a final investigation and filming of the site latter this month.

### ***Mystery of the Trees Presentations and Book Signings***

We are now only doing a few presentations each year based on requests or invited conference presentations. We just returned from Decatur, AL where we assisted the WildSouth organization and did a screening of the *Mystery of the Trees* at the Princess Theater. Approximately 150 people attended the screening of the documentary. In October, we will head to Brevard, NC for a presentation on the Marker tree program. Some presentations are already being booked for early 2019.

We have sold out of the third printing of our book the *Mystery of the Trees* so it is no longer available. We still have a number of the DVD's of the same title available. We dropped the price of that item to \$12.00 and will have it for sale until supplies are gone.

### **Filming**

In between his knee operations, we are still working on the filming of the Choctaw Medicine Man with Sam Curren. We hope to have a YouTube version of this film latter this year or early next year. We are also investigating the possibility of using the large amount of digital film we have in the can to create a film on showing how Native Science works for documenting sacred sites.

### **Facebook**

To stay in touch with our activities in between Newsletter issues, follow us on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/mysterytrees](http://www.facebook.com/mysterytrees). This site provides a running account of our weekly activities. Please log on to the site and **LIKE** the page. This opens our information to a larger audience and helps educate folks about the program. Currently, our LIKE's total is 1,792 with 1,758 followers. We are striving for the 2,000 mark. A lot of dialog is now on going between the followers of the site who are sharing their findings across the nation.